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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Eternal God, we give you thanks for giving us another day.

Once again, we come to You to ask wisdom, patience, and peace for the Members of the people's House. As they encounter their constituents over this weekend, endow them with grace and understanding, especially of those issues which are most pressing.

Please keep all who work for the people's House in good health, that they might faithfully fulfill the great responsibility given them in their service to the work of the Capitol.

Bless us this day and every day. May all that is done here this day be for Your greater honor and glory.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. GOMEZ) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GOMEZ led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BRADEN VARNEY

(Mr. MCCLINTOCK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a hero of the Sierra and mourn his tragic loss.

Braden Varney, age 36, gave his life Saturday night fighting the Ferguson Fire, which continues to ravage the forests near Yosemite Valley and threaten the communities of Mariposa County.

A second-generation bulldozer operator with CAL FIRE, he was all alone that night, cutting firebreaks to stop this monster fire, when his dozer overturned in treacherous terrain. He was well-known to the people of Mariposa, being involved in many civic activities. Braden leaves behind a grieving widow, Jessica, and two small children, Malhea, age five, and Nolan, just 3 years old.

Our firefighters face mortal peril when they leave the safety and comfort of their homes and families to put themselves in harm's way. They literally place their lives between our communities and the fires that can

consume them. They know the danger better than anyone. Yet, they do what they do anyway.

Mr. Speaker, to the Varney family, I can only express our profound respect, admiration, gratitude, and sympathy on behalf of all of those who Braden died to protect.

FREE WILLIAM NGUYEN

(Mr. GOMEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, William Nguyen is a 32-year-old from my district. His graduation from graduate school was last week, but he missed it because he was jailed while vacationing in Vietnam, imprisoned after taking part in a peaceful demonstration.

I am here to stand up for my constituent and ask that he be treated humanely. This young man is a son, brother, and a friend to many. I see his passion for justice in the millennials I represent. Will is part of a generation that cares deeply about the world beyond our borders. They are advocates for the most vulnerable, voices for the voiceless, and now William needs our voices. He needs our collective resolve to help him through this difficult time.

Will's case has unified Democrats and Republicans to work together on his behalf. For weeks, we have done everything to build diplomatic efforts needed to bring him home. Today, I am asking all Americans, regardless of their politics, to join us in supporting the Nguyen family. Keep them in your thoughts, in your hearts, and in your prayers.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PAUL STOUT

(Mr. BOST asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, 100 years ago today, a young marine from Murphysboro, Illinois, gave his life on the front lines during World War I.

Paul Stout graduated in 1916 from Murphysboro High School and then enlisted in the Marine Corps in February of 1918. In June of 1918, he was deployed to the front lines. At age 20, he was killed in action in France in July of 1918. For his heroic actions, he was awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star with a V device for valor.

The Paul Stout American Legion Post 127 is my hometown American Legion Post in Murphysboro. It is named after Private Stout. I had the opportunity this last year to visit the battleground at Belleau Wood, where he fought just a month and a half before passing in a battle later on farther into France. I can tell you it was a truly moving experience.

Although memories may fade over time, we must never forget those who served and gave their lives in defense of freedom and liberty in every war across this great globe.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BRONSON KALILOA

(Ms. GABBARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Hawaii County Police Officer Bronson Kaliloa, who died yesterday after being fatally shot Tuesday night during a traffic stop in Mountain View.

Bronson was just 46 years old, a father of three, a graduate of Waimea High School on Kauai, a 10-year veteran of the police force and a public servant recognized by his community, fellow officers, and family and friends as one-of-a-kind because of his dedication to service, his kindness, and heart of aloha.

He was part of the Puna Patrol Division, who, over the last few months, have been working around the clock to support their community in crisis, due to the ongoing volcanic activity and lava flow, helping residents who have been displaced from their homes, businesses, and farms.

We mourn with the community of Puna, the Hawaii Police Department, and Bron's ohana he left behind: Casey, Samson, Grace, and Nathan. We can never forget the sacrifices our law enforcement officers and their families make every single day to serve and protect.

YOUTH EXCHANGE AND STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study Abroad program, otherwise known as the YES program.

Sponsored by the Department of State and funded by Congress, the YES program is celebrating 15 years of connecting the world.

Established after the September 11 attacks, high school students from across the country spend an academic year in countries with a significant Muslim population. The students live with a host family, attend a local high school, and engage in activities to learn about their host country's society and values. In turn, the students share American culture and values with the people of their host country.

I recently met with a YES program participant from Pennsylvania's Fifth District, Jocelyn Krieger from Port Matilda. This past academic year, Jocelyn lived and learned in Bosnia. She and numerous other students were able to participate in this important cultural exchange that fosters understanding and collaboration between people of different backgrounds.

Mr. Speaker, I know that this great program will continue to grow and connect cultures to truly build a global community.

ENDING HARASSMENT IN THE WORKPLACE

(Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the bipartisan, bicameral EMPOWER Act.

The goal of this consequential legislation is simple: create safe workplaces and a society where everyone can thrive.

We all have the right to work in a safe environment, but over the past months we have heard stories of individuals from all walks of life. We have seen how widespread harassment is, and the culture of silence. In fact, according to the EEOC, it is estimated that 90 percent of harassment incidents never get reported. That is why we need this bill.

The EMPOWER Act outlines what sexual harassment is, creates systems that foster accountability, and removes the fear of retaliation that keeps so many victims from coming forward. By removing that fear of reporting, eradicating deceptive nondisclosure agreements, and increasing transparency, we are taking meaningful steps to make our workplaces harassment-free and creating a culture of respect throughout society.

From Harvey Weinstein to factory floors to Time's Up and the #MeToo movement, we are going from a moment to a movement to action. I ask that my colleagues join me in supporting this bill.

SUPPORT FOR ICE

(Mr. ALLEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in overwhelming support for the officers who carry out the important mission of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, better known as ICE.

These brave individuals are saddled with the responsibility of facing some of the world's most dangerous and violent criminals, like MS-13 and many who traffic drugs and humans, and others who wish to do us harm.

Yesterday, 35 Members voted against supporting this important area of our law enforcement. Not supporting our law enforcement and ICE is just plain wrong and endangers American lives. ICE ensures the defense and security of the United States through the identification, investigation, apprehension, and deportation of foreign nationals that pose a threat of any kind to U.S. national security.

We are a country of laws, and they must be enforced. I will vote time and again to support these brave officers, and I stand here today to thank them for their service and for the sacrifice that they and their families make each and every day as they keep our communities as safe as possible.

CLIMATE CHANGE

(Ms. LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H. Con. Res. 119, which is a shameful denial of the clear evidence of climate change and its impact on our planet.

Let me be clear. There is no greater threat to the future of this planet than climate change. But instead of offering solutions, Republicans are burying their heads in the sand once again.

Here are the facts. Climate change is real, it is manmade, and every day that Congress fails to act, we are making the problem worse. The cost of inaction is astronomical. If we do nothing it is our grandchildren who will be left with the price tag.

The truth is, Mr. Speaker, that we can pass policies that dramatically reduce greenhouse gases and build our economy. California, my home State, is 4 years ahead of schedule on our greenhouse gas emission reduction goals and green jobs have grown exponentially. We have over 300,000 people working in the green job industry, by far the most in the country.

So, no, Mr. Speaker, this carbon tax fear-mongering won't work because Americans understand that the true threat to our economy is from climate change, which is already wreaking havoc on our planet.

I urge my colleagues to reject this resolution and, instead, get to the real work of addressing climate change.